

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 STRE-00 TRSY-02 AGRE-00
CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01
INR-10 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
CTME-00 AID-05 SS-15 STR-07 ITC-01 ICA-11 SP-02
SOE-02 OMB-01 DOE-15 /129 W
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FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8609
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

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PASS STR ELECTRONICALLY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, GATT, BU, FI, CZ, HU, PL, GE
SUBJECT: GATT: FINLAND-EASTERN EUROPEAN FREE TRADE
ARRANGEMENTS

1. LIKELIHOOD THAT WORKING PARTY TO EXAMINE THE FINLAND-POLAND FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WILL BE ESTABLISHED AT THE NEXT MEETING OF THE GATT COUNCIL REMINDS US OF THE UNFINISHED STATUS OF WORKING PARTIES ON FINLAND'S AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER EASTERN EUROPEAN STATES. BRIEFLY, STATUS OF THESE WORKING PARTIES IS AS FOLLOWS:

A. FINLAND-GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: AN INTERIM REPORT WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL IN MARCH 1977 (GATT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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DOCUMENT C/M/119). THE COUNCIL MINUTES STATE THAT THERE WAS AGREEMENT TO REEXAMINE THE FREE TRADE AGREEMENT WITHIN 18 MONTHS.

B. FINLAND-BULGARIA: THE WORKING PARTY REPORTED TO THE COUNCIL IN NOVEMBER 1976 (C/M/117) THAT IT WAS UNABLE TO CONCLUDE ITS WORK BECAUSE OF THE INABILITY OF

THE BULGARIAN GOVERNMENT TO SUPPLY CERTAIN REGULATIONS
RELATING TO THE AGREEMENT.

C. FINLAND-CZECHOSLOVAKIA: IN ITS REPORT TO THE
COUNCIL IN JULY 1976 (C/M/114), THE WORKING PARTY NOTED
ITS WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE THE MATTER AT THE REQUEST OF
THE MEMBERS OF THE WORKING PARTY, IT BEING UNDERSTOOD
INFORMALLY THAT THE WORKING PARTY WOULD CONVENE AGAIN
WITHIN 18 MONTHS.

D. FINLAND-HUNGARY: THIS IS THE LATEST AGREEMENT
WHICH WAS CONSIDERED BY THE COUNCIL IN JUNE 1977 (C/M/123)
WITH DISAGREEMENT BETWEEN HUNGARY AND THE OTHER MEMBERS
OF THE WORKING PARTY OVER THE NECESSITY TO REEXAMINE THE
AGREEMENT AT A LATER DATE. DIFFERENCES OF OPINION WERE
NOTED AND NO DECISION ON RECONVENING OF WP WAS TAKEN.

2. THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING PARTY TO CONSIDER
POLISH-FINNISH AGREEMENT OFFERS AN OPPORTUNE TIME TO
REEXAMINE THE FINNISH AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER EASTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. SINCE THE HUNGARIAN AGREEMENT WAS
RECENTLY EXAMINED IN SOME DETAIL, WE MAY WISH AT THIS
TIME TO LIMIT OUR EXAMINATION TO THE OTHER 3 AGREEMENTS.
ACCORDING TO GATT SECRETARIAT, WE CAN, OF COURSE, ASK FOR
AN INDIVIDUAL WORKING PARTY THIS SPRING ON ANY OF THESE
AGREEMENTS. THE WORKING PARTY ON THE POLISH-FINNISH
AGREEMENT WILL NOT CONVENE BEFORE FALL SINCE IT NORMALLY
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TAKES FOUR MONTHS FROM THE DATE THE AGREEMENT IS NOTIFIED
TO THE COUNCIL UNTIL THE WORKING PARTY ACTUALLY CONVENES
IN ORDER TO ALLOW FOR WRITTEN QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES.
WE THEREFORE HAVE THE OPTION OF ASKING FOR A WORKING
PARTY ON ANY ONE OR ALL OF THESE AGREEMENTS BEFORE THE
SUMMER BREAK OR OF COMBINING THEM ALL UNDER THE AEGIS
OF ONE WORKING PARTY IN THE FALL.

3. GATT SECRETARIAT, WITH WHOM WE HAVE DISCUSSED THIS
QUESTION, WOULD LIKE AN INDICATION OF PREFERRED U.S.
WAY OF DEALING WITH THESE AGREEMENTS. THEY HAVE DIS-
CUSSED MATTER WITH OTHER INTERESTED DELS AND REPORT THAT
THESE DELS APPEAR WILLING TO DISCUSS OTHER AGREEMENTS
AT SAME TIME AS POLISH-FINNISH AGREEMENT. VANDEN HEUVEL

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